

Queen Mary of England



THE BRITISH QUEEN.

Not as Popular as Is Alexandra—Looked Upon as Cold and Haughty—Is Clever and Talented.

LONDON, May 6.—Mary, Princess of Wales, who now becomes Queen Mary, is a contrast in numerous particulars to Queen Alexandra, whom she succeeds. Mary resembles Alexandra in neither appearance nor temperament, and she comes to her crown as a consort with a standing before the British people entirely different from that of Alexandra when the latter ceased to be the Princess of Wales and became Queen Consort.

Alexandra was enormously popular throughout the British Empire; she was most gracious and charming in manner. Mary, on the other hand, is popular neither in England nor the colonies; she is severe, cold and haughty. She is a woman cast in stern mold. Her public duties are performed with scrupulous fidelity and conscientiousness, but with a severity and haughtiness which chill her subjects.

With all the quietness, haughtiness and retirement which have characterized Mary as Princess of Wales, there goes nevertheless a nature of profound ambition, mated to a mind of keen intelligence. Mary is ambitious in the extreme for her husband and herself, declare those who have been in position to receive an insight into her character, and she may conceivably exercise an important influence on King George V's rule as monarch.

George is a man who, by nature, would be likely to take very little active part, even for a constitutional sovereign, in impressing himself on the policies of the state. But it is whispered that his wife, who is said to influence him by her strong nature, may force him into courses both arrogant and self-willed. It has been known for some years that the Princess of Wales has exhibited growing intolerance of control in matters wherein she has adopted a decisive view of her own. It was often said by those in a position to know that Edward VII. required every atom of his almost matchless tact to keep Mary in line with the royal wishes.

Her health for some time has been rather delicate and uncertain. She dresses well, but always in a quiet style, and wears few jewels, except at court entertainments.

She has many gifts and hobbies, and like all of the English royalty, received the best of home educations. She is fond of music and is a good musician. She plays the organ in a style well above the average. She also inherits some of the artistic gifts of her aunt and godmother, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. The Queen paints and draws well and shows distinct ability as a designer, a talent which she has made apparent at her home in Scotland.

She drew the plans for the china and chintzes used in furnishing the bed-rooms and took the designs from ferns and flowers found in the neighborhood. She is also responsible for the designs of matting fittings, iron work and brass fire irons, electric lights and even fire places and mantle pieces.

Her majesty is nothing of an athlete, as she neither rides nor shoots, rows nor plays golf or hockey; but she is a first rate fencer, and was taught by Bertrand. She is also a fine fisherwoman and takes a sincere interest in the sport, having designed several flies which have been very successful.

She has no sympathy with the so-called smart set and is devoted to a few chosen intimates. Those upon whom she has showed most attentions are the Marquis d'Hautpoul, Lady Clementine Walsh, Lady Cecilia Webb and Mrs. "Bunny" Leigh, who as Miss Blanche Forbes was a friend when she was Princess Louise of Wales.

Replaced Another Wife at George's Side—Was Affianced Once to Husband's Brother, Who Died.

LONDON, May 6.—That George V will leave any deep imprint on English history as a sovereign of force and commanding ability is much to be doubted, but at least he is likely to prove a King of good heart, of conscientious attention to duty and of discreet conduct in state affairs.

George brings to the throne considerable experience of his own in the routine demands of the public service made upon him as Prince of Wales, and he comes to the task of governing with fair ability, good personal character and a serious sense of his own responsibilities. This is declared to be as much as perhaps can reasonably be said at present for him viewed as a sovereign.

It should not be forgotten in considering the attributes of the new King, that he was not brought up as heir to the crown. The chroniclers who were in a position to know state that he came to the honors and duties of heirship with no desire, and with real regret. He was 27 years old before he became heir to the crown through the death of his elder brother, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale.

Prior to that time he had been at liberty, as the more second son of the then Prince of Wales, the late King, to follow in a large degree his own inclinations. Those inclinations were for a quiet life, with little pomp and public appearance. He loved the sea, which he had actively followed since he was 12 years old, when he entered the navy. As the "sailor Prince" he was popular with Englishmen and had far wider popularity than he ever enjoyed while Prince of Wales. He wanted to live unostentatiously and to pursue his career in his own way.

He has married morganatically, a woman whom he loved and who loved him—a niece of Vice Admiral Tryon of the British Navy, who lost his life in the Victoria-Camperdown collision in the Mediterranean in 1893. The wedding took place in the English Church at Malta and two children were born to the couple. Such was the situation in January, 1892, when the Duke of Clarence died. George found himself the heir to the throne, with vast duties awaiting him. Immediately his entire life was changed. He had to give up the sea, he had to abandon his retired life, he had to part from his morganatic wife. The heir to the throne of the British Empire faced duties inconsistent with the life possible to a Prince not in the direct line of succession.

Men who were in a position to know declare that George renounced his quiet life as the "sailor Prince" with regret so deep that it changed his whole outlook on the world. It is certain that after he became heir to the throne he exhibited a coldness, a lack of whole-hearted interest, a species of bored tolerance of life which had not been marked before and which made him far less popular than he had been. On many occasions, both in Great Britain and during his travels in the colonies, his manner has lacked warmth and interest to a degree which made him distinctly unpopular and even disliked.

Not only was George, when he became heir forced to take up the public duties of the Duke of Clarence, but he was also obliged to marry his brother's fiancée, Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, or "Princess May," as she was popularly known, had been chosen as the future Queen of England, and her marriage to the Duke of Clarence was to have occurred in 1892. After the Duke's death, Queen Victoria ordered George to marry the present

Queen. In 1893 George did so, when the period of mourning for the Duke of Clarence was ended. The morganatic phase in the present King's life was then complete. The remembrance of some somewhat unusual facts of George's career perhaps aids in giving an understanding of the new sovereign.



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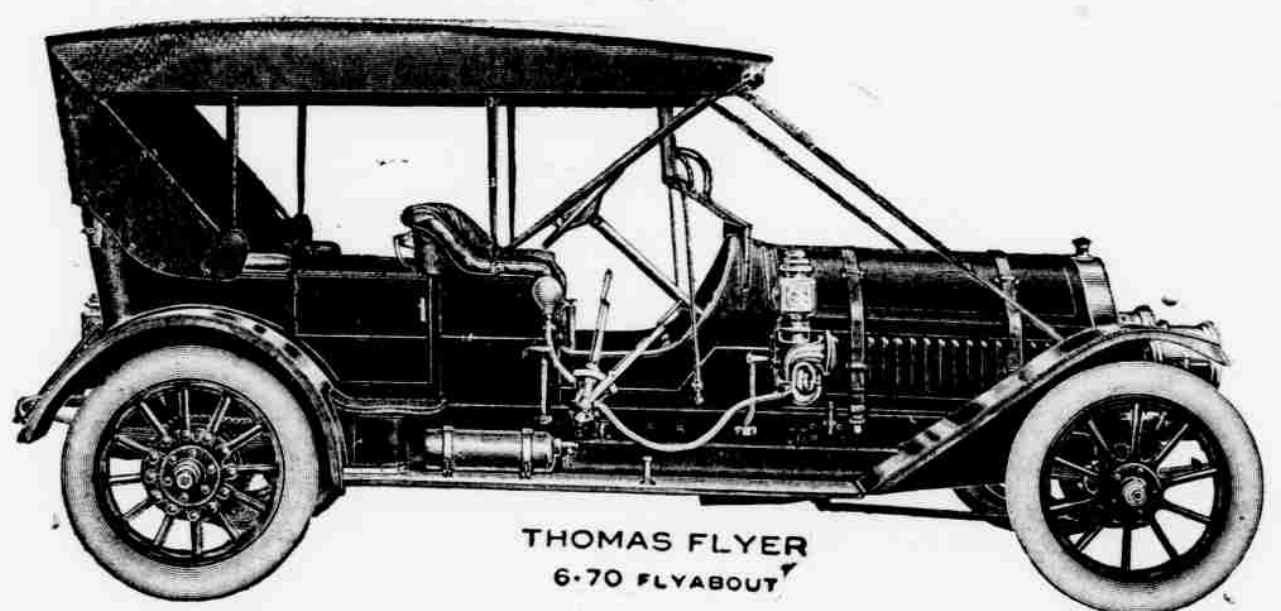
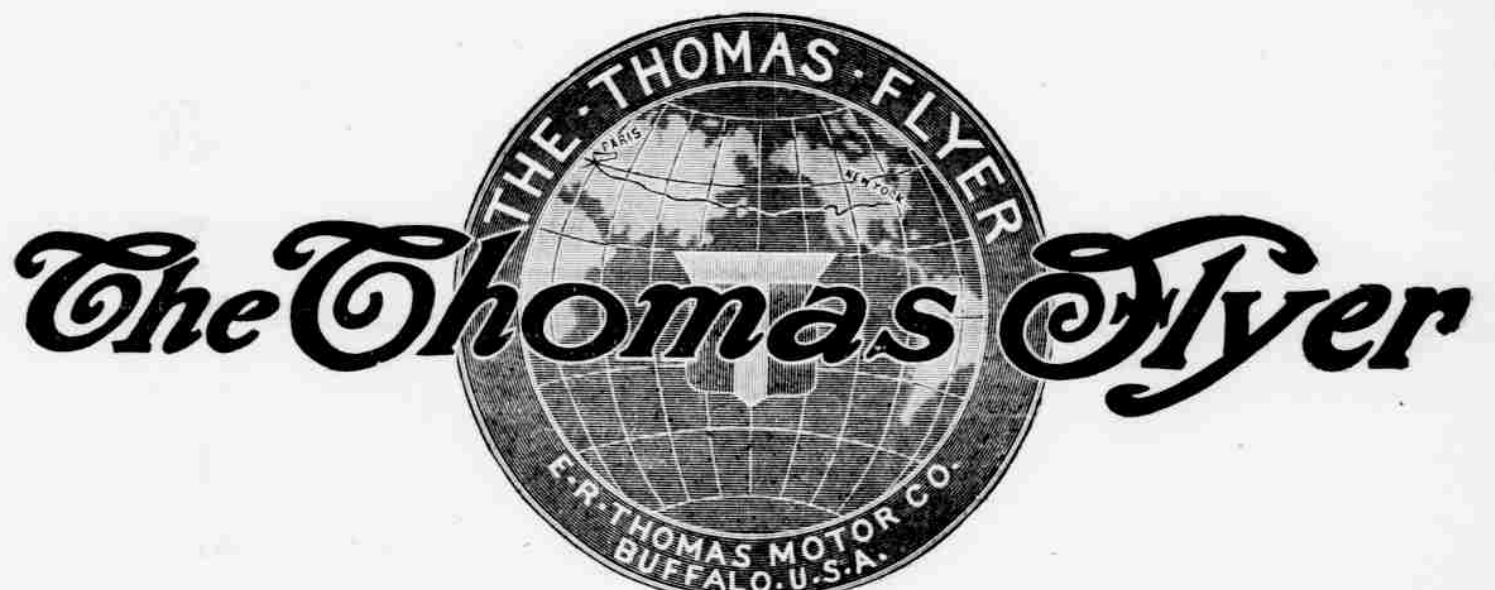
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